

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY COMMERCE:MSCUREINAN

APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE

S/S: DMILLER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 064520

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, YO, US (DENT, FREDERICK B.)

SUBJ: SECRETARY DENT'S TRAVEL IN EASTERN EUROPE

REF: BELGRADE 1439

1. SECRETARY DENT MET WITH AMBASSADOR GRANFIL MARCH 29
TO DISCUSS QUESTION OF POSSIBLE VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA.
THE FOLLOWING IS A MEMORANDUM OF THAT CONVERSATION.

2. BEGIN QUOTE. (A) SECRETARY: I AM AFRAID I HAVE SOME
BAD NEWS FOR YOU. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE KRSKO NUCLEAR
PLANT CONTRACT WILL NOT BE READY FOR SIGNING. THEREFORE,
I DO NOT PLAN TO STOP IN YUGOSLAVIA. I THINK IT IMPORTANT
THAT WE POSTPONE OUR VISIT FOR A SIGNIFICANT EVENT. WE
WILL LOOK FORWARD TO A MORE APPROPRIATE TIME, POSSIBLY
A SPECIAL TRIP. I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT WE ARE VERY
SORRY THAT THIS HAD HAPPENED. (B) AMBASSADOR : AS YOU
KNOW, A GROUP HAS BEEN OVER HERE SINCE MONDAY TALKING WITH
THE EXIM BANK. I UNDERSTAND THE TALKS WERE SUCCESSFUL
AND ALL THAT IS LEFT IS FORMAL PROCEDURE. WE HAVE ALSO
REACHED THE NECESSARY AGREEMENTS WITH THE COMMERCIAL BANKS
--SPECIFICALLY, FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK OF NEW YORK AND
CITY BANK OF LONDON. HOWEVER, THERE ARE MANY TECHNICAL
DETAILS, THOUSANDS OF PAGES I UNDERSTAND; AND OUR PEOPLE
ARE WORKING HARD WITH THE WESTINGHOUSE PEOPLE TO FURNISH
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THIS AS PRECISELY AS POSSIBLE. SINCE THE WESTINGHOUSE

EFFORT IS A TURNKEY, WE WILL PROBABLY NEED SEVERAL WEEKS TO COMPLETE THE WORK. (C) SECRETARY: HAVING BEEN A BUSINESSMAN MYSELF FOR 25 YEARS, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT ALL PARTIES COME TO AN AGREEABLE MEETING OF THE MINDS ON THIS CONTRACT. I WOULD NOT WANT THE PROSPECT OF OUR TRIP TO CAUSE ANYBODY TO TRY AND SPEED UP THIS PROCESS. (D) AMBASSADOR: AS YOU KNOW, MR. SECRETARY, I WAS A BUSINESSMAN MYSELF AND I COMPLETELY AGREE. HOWEVER, MY PEOPLE WERE EXPECTING YOU AND HAD MANY OTHER THINGS TO DISCUSS. THE PRIME MINISTER HAD HOPED TO MEET WITH YOU. WE ESTIMATE THAT THE CONTRACT WORK WILL BE FINISHED IN MAY, PERMITTING US TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT IN EARLY JUNE. (E) SECRETARY: I FIND IT VERY ENCOURAGING THAT WE WILL HAVE SOMETHING TANGIBLE IN JUNE. PLEASE TELL YOUR PEOPLE HOW MUCH I WILL MISS COMING TO YOUR COUNTRY AND PLEASE EMPHASIZE THAT THIS IS JUST A POSTPONEMENT. I AM VERY GLAD THAT YOUR RELATIONS WITH THE EXIM BANK ARE NOW IN GOOD SHAPE. I WILL BE MEETING WITH MR. CASEY NEXT WEEK AND WILL FOLLOW UP WITH HIM. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, FINANCE, AGREEMENT DRAFT, AMBASSADORS, VISITS, MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, BANKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE064520
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MSCUREINAN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P740141-2070, D740071-0061
From: COM EUR STATE SS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974031/aaaaaaait.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 74 BELGRADE 1439, BELGRADE 1439
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <04 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SEC DENT'S TRAVEL IN EASTERN EUROPE
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, YO, US, (DENT, FREDERICK B), (GRANFIL)
To: BELGRADE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005